

The Study of the U.S. Institutes

The Study of the U.S. Institutes are six-week post-graduate level seminars in the U.S. designed for multinational groups of foreign university faculty, scholars, secondary school teachers, educators and ministry officials. The ultimate objective of these programs is to promote the development and improvement of courses and teaching about the United States of America at colleges, universities and secondary school systems abroad. Each institute focuses on a particular discipline or theme, and is planned and conducted by a U.S.-based host institution (typically a college or university). Most of the 2006 study of the U.S. institutes will take place during various six-week periods between early June and early August 2006.

Following are short descriptions of the 2006 institutes:

Study of the United States Institutes for Foreign Secondary Educators

Two institutes are offered for foreign secondary school educators including teacher trainers and curriculum developers.

a. Title: Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary School Educators

Host institution: Institute for Training and Development, [Amherst, MA]

Suggested participant specialization: American studies, American literature, American history, and English language.

Program description:

This program will provide participants with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present. It will be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization, and will have a strong contemporary component. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, program content will be imaginatively integrated in order to elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. institutions and values, broadly defined. It will illuminate contemporary political, social and economic debates in American society. The institute will include a four-week academic seminar residency segment on the campus of Amherst College which will take advantage of the New England location with its numerous academic institutions, historic architecture, and cultural events. A two-week integrated study tour to the east coast [New England and New York], the southwest [Utah] and the south [Washington D.C. and Virginia] will complete the program. (Tour destinations subject to change.)

b. Title: Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary School Educators

Host institution: University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)

Suggested participant specialization: American studies, American literature, American history, and English language.

Program description:

This program will provide participants with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present. It will be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization, and will have a strong contemporary component. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, program content will be imaginatively integrated in order to elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. institutions and values, broadly defined. It will illuminate contemporary political, social and economic debates in American society. The program will remain in residency on the UIC campus in Chicago for the first four weeks, with field trips in the city and surroundings, and travel to the rural regions of Illinois and to nearby areas of interest. While there, grantees will conduct extensive field work among various social groups in the community; meet with a wide variety of local figures; and develop, through group work, a series of curricular modules which they may use in their own work. The last two weeks will be spent on tour, through the American southwest, the west, and the region surrounding Washington, D.C. (tour destinations subject to change.)

Study of the United States Institutes for Foreign University Faculty

C. Title: U.S. Foreign Policy: Foundations and Formulation

Host institution: University of South Carolina

Suggested participant specialization: international relations, foreign policy, history, and political science

Program description:

While the program will review the domestic institutional foundations for U.S. foreign policy, the primary purpose of this institute will be to provide participants with a deeper understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is conceptualized and enacted with emphasis on the post cold war era. This institute will examine the intersection of ideas and structures in the development of U.S. foreign policy. Its focus will be on the main philosophical trends that have girded U.S. foreign policy; the grand strategies and frameworks that have been developed out of these philosophical trends; and what actors--both governmental and non-governmental--shape U.S. foreign policy at various stages from its conceptualization to its enactment. An overarching goal of the program is to illuminate the relationship between U.S. policies and the political, social and economic forces in the United States that constitute the domestic context in which such policies are debated, formulated and executed. Ideally, the program will be structured in such a way as to give attention to U.S. policy both globally and in particular geographic areas and to examine the role of U.S. foreign policy within the context of international relations and international institutions.

d. Title: Contemporary American Literature

Host institution: University of Louisville

Suggested participant specialization American literature, American studies

Program description:

This program will focus on recent American literature and criticism. It will explore contemporary American writers and writing in a variety of genres and will suggest how the themes explored in those works reflect larger currents within contemporary American society and culture. The program will explore the diversity of the American literary landscape, examining how major contemporary writers, schools and movements reflect the traditions of the American literary canon and, at the same time, represent a departure from that tradition, establishing new directions for American literature. This institute will offer a multi-dimensional and academically rigorous examination of contemporary American literature, including a significant amount of literary theory and criticism. The program content (including texts, readings and seminar sessions) will be very demanding, and will only be appropriate for participants who have significant prior knowledge of American literature and of literary theory, criticism and practice. Participants will also need very strong English language ability.

e. Title: Religious Pluralism in the United States

Host institution: University of California (Santa Barbara)

Suggested participant specialization: political science, sociology, religion, history, and American studies.

Program description:

This program will focus on the American religious experience and its intersection with democracy. Employing a multi-disciplinary approach, drawing on fields such as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law and others where appropriate, the program will explore both the historical and contemporary relationship between the church and state in the United States; examine the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced and have been influenced by the development of American democracy; examine the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy; and explore the sociology and demography of religion in the United States today, including a survey of the varieties of contemporary religious beliefs and their impact on American politics.

f. Title: The Civilization of the United States: An Introduction

Host institution: New York University [New York, NY]

Suggested participant specialization: history, American studies, American literature, and English language.

Program description:

This program will be conducted by the Multinational Institute of American Studies [MIAS] at New York University [NYU]. This institute is intended to familiarize foreign university faculty with the major themes, disciplines and approaches which, individually or in combination, could constitute the basis of a U.S. studies course or program at a

foreign university. The program will provide the participants with a highly selective yet integrated approach to the major themes--historical, political, literary, and cultural--that scholars from abroad might want to present to their students in a comprehensive course on U.S. civilization. During a four-week residency segment at New York University and a two-week study tour to New England, the southwest and Washington D.C., participants will be presented with an intensive survey course which will integrate content and method from the following major fields of study: U.S. history; U.S. government, politics, and law; U.S. literature; and U.S. society and culture. The central theme of the program, "the reconciliation of culture and social diversity with national unity in the United States" is explored through the following four sub-themes: 1. Local autonomy and pluralism in America, 2. Individual liberty and the American creed, 3. Cultural and social heterogeneity and 4. National unity: social and cultural integration. Each of the four sub-themes is examined in terms of contemporary manifestations as well as the historical factors that account for them. This examination will be carried out as follows: an initial orientation to the overall focus of the program and a survey of recent scholarly and pedagogical trends in American studies that are relevant to the program's central theme; lecture/discussions with noted scholars representing different disciplines (history, politics, English, education, communications, economics, art, and music; site visits to local communities, educational and cultural institutions; panel discussions with leading representatives of different political views drawn from education, labor, business, religion, politics, journalism and the arts; and periodic discussion sessions with program faculty and staff on the relationship of individual topics to the overall theme of the program.

g. Title: U.S. Political Economy and the Global Economic System

Host institution: Dickinson College [Carlisle, PA]

Suggested participant specialization: economics, political science/international relations, and international business/management

Program description:

The objective of the institute on "U.S. political economy and the global economic system" is to enrich participants' understanding of the American political-economic model and its place within the larger context of the global economic system. Through a combination of carefully selected readings, lectures by academic experts, interaction with business and government leaders, group and panel discussions, local site visits and study tours to Washington, D.C., New York city, and another region, the goal is to provide a multi-faceted but well-integrated analysis of U.S. political economy. Specifically, the goals of the institute include the following: to familiarize the participants with the evolution of the U.S. economic model and of U.S. economic policy, both domestic and international; to help participants appreciate the philosophical, cultural and historical roots of contemporary U.S. economic processes and policies; to familiarize the participants with processes of economic policy-making in the U.S. and with the relationship of the economy and economic policy to the character and operation of U.S. democracy; to expose participants to the diversity of views on economic policy which exists in the U.S.; and, to encourage participants to think comparatively about the U.S.

economic experience such that their understanding of both the U.S. economy and their own home economy is enhanced. These goals are reflected in the institute's academic program, which is divided into modules addressing in turn: "foundations of the U.S. economic model;" "economic policy and policy-making; the U.S. and the world economy: trade and competitiveness;" and "the U.S. and the world economy: aid, finance and development."

h. Title: American Politics and Political Thought

Host institution: University of Massachusetts (Amherst)

Suggested participant specialization: political science, political theory, sociology, and philosophy.

Program description:

This program will provide participants with a deeper understanding of U.S. political institutions and of major currents in American political thought by focusing on the interplay between ideas and institutions in shaping the contemporary American polity. The institute will provide an overview of the origins (constitutional foundations), development and current functioning of the American presidency, congress and the federal judiciary, however examination of the political institutions might be expanded to include (e.g.) the two-party system, the civil service system, interest groups, or the welfare/regulatory state. The institute will simultaneously survey important currents in American political thought, including but not limited to the political thought of the founding period. In this context, the branch for the study of the U.S. is particularly interested in providing the foreign participants insight into competing strains in modern political thought/culture, such as liberalism, republicanism (with a small "r"), libertarianism, communitarianism, conservatism, neo-conservatism, etc. The institute will review the provenance and trajectory of these different intellectual strands, and highlight how they have intersected with American political institutions to shape public discourse and public policy formulation in the contemporary United States.

If you are interested in one of the above programs please fill in the following application form and e-mail it to AlmasriA@state.gov

A. Full name (as it appears on the passport):

B. Title of the program you are interested in:

C. Home address:

D. Date and place of birth:

E. Gender:

F. Medical, physical disability or other personal considerations:

G. Present position and title:

H. Employer or institutional affiliation and complete address:

I. Work experience including previous positions and titles:

J. Education, academic and professional training including degrees earned and fields of specialization:

K. Active professional membership:

L. Short list of relevant publications (no more than 5-10 citations):

M. Previous travel and study or research experience in the U.S. including dates and an indication as to whether such travel was supported by U.S. government:

N. Evidence of fluency in written and oral English:

O. Short personal statement (one to two pages) indicating why you are interested in participating in the program, and what you expect to get out of the program:

END